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THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA
QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 11 March 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose, herewith, the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on 28 February 1991 regarding the question of Cambodia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 24 and 40 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) TRINH XUAN LANG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Statement issued at Hanoi on 28 February 1991 by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam on the Cambodia issue

The settlement of the Cambodian issue is entering a decisive stage. Although some problems relating to the internal affairs of Cambodia have yet to be resolved, the possibility for an overall political solution on the basis of respect for Cambodia's sovereignty has been opened up. At the same time, there remains the danger of more intensified civil war. It is public knowledge that the armed forces of the three opposition factions, chiefly of the Khmer Rouge, which have been supplied with more arms, are intensifying their attacks along the north-western border of Cambodia. They struck mainly at populated areas, including a camp of Khmer refugees near Sisophon Town, causing death and suffering to the civilian population and seriously undermining the process of a peaceful settlement of the Cambodia question.

In face of such a situation, Viet Nam holds that the international community should take practical and effective measures to prevent the civil war from escalating and to accelerate the peaceful settlement of the Cambodia issue. The main obstacles on the road towards the final solution lie mainly in the internal affairs of Cambodia. Hence, it is very imperative at present for all the warring Khmer factions to observe self-restraint, effect a cease-fire at an early date and reconvene the Supreme National Council (SNC) to discuss and resolve the internal aspects relating to Cambodia's sovereignty as proposed by the State of Cambodia. Only the Cambodian people and nobody else are entitled to and can settle these problems. Foreign countries have no right to settle Cambodia's internal affairs; and instead, have the obligation to respect the decisions of the SNC on the internal affairs of Cambodia.

In order to accelerate the peace process, Viet Nam urges all countries to encourage and create favourable conditions for the SNC to meet again in order to solve Cambodia's internal issues in the spirit of national reconciliation as a prerequisite for reconvening the Paris International Conference on Cambodia as early as possible. At the same time, it is now more imperative and propitious than ever for foreign countries to commit themselves to the initiative of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 23 September 1989 regarding a moratorium on military aid to all Cambodian parties and an end to all intervention in Cambodia. Also in that spirit, Viet Nam is ready, together with Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to undertake not to permit the transportation of other countries' weapons to Cambodia through its territory. The realization of the above-mentioned commitments will be placed under the supervision of the United Nations. We ask the Co-Chairmen of the Paris International Conference and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to do their utmost to achieve this moratorium and to effect a cease-fire in Cambodia pending the signing of an overall agreement. In that way, foreign countries will practically contribute to the restriction and eventually to the cessation of the civil war in Cambodia, thus strongly accelerating the search for an overall political solution to the Cambodia issue.

With good will for and sincere desirous of an early settlement of the Cambodia issue, Viet Nam has done all it could, including the most important act of unilaterally withdrawing all its troops from Cambodia, with a view to reaching an early overall political solution in order to ensure a peaceful, independent, neutral and non-aligned Cambodia having friendly relations with all countries. Viet Nam calls upon all other countries to continue their efforts to accelerate the peace process in order to bring peace and stability soon to Cambodia, South-East Asia and the rest of the world. The most urgent thing now is to suspend military aid to all Cambodian Parties.